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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/028,433	12/28/2001	Young-Sang Byun	3430-0175P	4398

2292 7590 03/12/2007
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EXAMINER

DUONG, THOI V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2871

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/12/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/028,433

Applicant(s)

BYUN ET AL.

Examiner

Thoi V. Duong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 December 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,7-10 and 12-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,7-10 and 12-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) None
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the Amendment filed December 19, 2006.

Accordingly, claim 1 was amended, claims 3, 5, 6 and 11 were cancelled, and new claims 21-24 were added. Currently, claims 1, 2, 4, 7-10 and 12-24 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 10 and 12-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over von Gutfeld et al. (von Gutfeld, USPN 6,055,035) in view of Paton et al. (Paton, USPN 4,018,383).

Re claim 1, as shown in Figs. 2A, 2B and 3, von Gutfeld discloses a method of forming a liquid crystal layer on a substrate, comprising:

preparing a liquid crystal material in a projecting portion 20 comprising a nozzle fixture 21 and a LC source 23;

applying a pressure to the projecting portion 21 so as to emit the liquid crystal material (col. 5, lines 11-65);

moving the substrate 1A in one direction (col. 6, lines 8-14); and

depositing the liquid crystal material from the projection portion 20 uniformly onto the substrate during the moving of the substrate in the one direction (col. 5, lines 30-37).

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Re claim 9, as shown in Figs. 1, 2A, 2B and 3, von Gutfeld discloses an apparatus for forming a liquid crystal layer on a substrate, comprising:

a projecting portion 20 having a nozzle plate 21 containing a nozzle aperture 22 for emitting a liquid crystal material; and

a stage 1 for moving the substrate 1A in one direction during emitting of the liquid crystal material from the projecting portion 21 uniformly onto the substrate (col. 5, 30-37 and col. 6, lines 8-14).

Von Gutfeld discloses a method of forming a liquid crystal layer on a substrate that is basically the same as that recited in claims 1 and 9 except for a resonator for applying an on voltage during emitting of the liquid crystal material to generate a vibration so as to apply a pressure to the projecting portion to emit the liquid crystal material from the projection portion.

As shown in Fig. II, Paton discloses an ink-jet system comprising:

a resonator 5 (piezoelectric crystal) mounted on a projecting portion 1 (housing) for generating a vibration upon application of an on voltage to the resonator 5 during emitting of the liquid material (col. 1, lines 6-23; col. 1, line 66 through col. 2, line 8; col. 2, lines 58-67; col. 5, line 65 through col. 6, line 19; col. 9, lines 33-39; and col. 10, lines 12-31),

wherein the generated vibration is transmitted from the resonator 5 to the projecting portion 1 through a resonating plate (impervious membrane) located between the resonator 5 and the projecting portion 1 so as to apply a pressure to the projecting portion 1 to emit the liquid droplets from the projection portion 2 (col. 7, lines 54-60).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of forming a liquid crystal layer on a substrate of von Gutfeld with the teaching of Paton by employing a resonator and a resonating plate for generating a vibration upon application of an on voltage during emitting of the liquid crystal material so as to apply a pressure to the projecting portion to emit the liquid crystal material from the projecting portion into a stream of uniformed sized drops being substantially free from satellite drops (col. 7, lines 49-53 and col. 10, lines 12-19).

Re claims 2 and 10, as shown in Fig. 2A, von Gutfeld discloses that the projecting portion 20 has a nozzle plate 21 (fixture) containing a plurality of orifices 22, said nozzle plate adjusting the applied pressure for emitting the liquid crystal material, the liquid crystal material being emitted through the plurality of orifices (col. 5, lines 30-58 and col. 7, lines 47-55).

Re claims 4 and 13, von Gutfeld discloses that the liquid crystal material is emitted and deposited in a vacuum chamber 60 (Figs. 6 and 7, and col. 7, lines 36-55); accordingly, it is obvious that the vacuum chamber encompasses the projection portion, the resonator and the resonating plate used to emit the liquid crystal material.

Re claims 15 and 16, as shown in Figs. 2B and 3 of von Gutfeld, the volume of the emitted liquid crystal material is adjusted by a CPU 25 to obtain the correct a correct amount of the liquid crystal material deposited on the panel 1A according to a position of the nozzle plate 21 or the moving substrate (col. 5, line 50 through col. 6, line 14). Accordingly, it is obvious that the CPU 25 is operated by an on voltage according to a

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position of the nozzle plate 21 or the moving substrate so as to allow a uniform amount of the liquid crystal material to be ejected through the nozzle plate (col. 5, line 50 through col. 6, line 14).

Re claim 12, as shown in Fig. 3, since von Gutfeld discloses that the stage 1 is moved in relation to a fixed projection portion 20 (col. 6, lines 8-14), it is obvious that means is provided for moving the stage.

Re claim 14, Paton discloses that means (source of a combined signal) is provided for generating vibration in the resonator 5 (col. 7, lines 12-24 and 42-44).

Re claims 17 and 19, Paton discloses that the liquid material is emitted from the projecting portion by only the pressure applied to the projecting portion (col. 7, lines 49-53).

Re claims 18 and 20, Paton discloses that the liquid material is emitted from the projecting portion by the pressure applied to the projecting portion without applying an electric field to the liquid material during emitting of the liquid material (col. 5, lines 34-54 and col. 7, lines 12-24).

Re claims 21 and 23, as shown in Fig. III, Paton discloses that the resonating plate 38 is placed between the resonator 39 and the projecting portion 30 (housing) such that a first surface (upper surface) of the resonating plate 38 is in contact with the resonator 39 and a second surface (lower surface) of the resonating plate 38 is in contact with an upper surface of the projecting portion 30 (col. 8, lines 33-47),

wherein re claims 22 and 24, as shown in Fig. III, the resonating plate 38, which is sealed on top of the flange 35 of the projecting portion 30 (col. 8, lines 41-44), is spaced apart from the liquid material by the projecting portion 30.

4. Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over von Gutfeld et al. (von Gutfeld, USPN 6,055,035) in view of Paton et al. (Paton, USPN 4,018,383) as applied to claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 10 and 12-20 above, and further in view of Masazumi et al. (Masazumi, USPN 6,331,884 B1).

As shown in Fig. 4, von Gutfeld discloses at least of of the substrates, 1A or 1B, having a sealed pattern 41 (col. 7, lines 24-27). However, von Gutfeld as modified in view of Paton does not disclose a black matrix formed under the sealed pattern, wherein the liquid crystal material start and stop is deposited on the black matrix as recited in claims 7 and 8.

As shown in Fig. 5, Masazumi discloses a black matrix 8 (black light absorbing layer) formed under a sealed pattern 9b' (col. 16, lines 18-23), wherein a liquid crystal material 9a, 9a', 9a'' start and stop is deposited on the black matrix.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the method of von Gutfeld with the teaching of Masazumi by formed a black matrix under a sealed pattern for enabling display of a black which is background color when the liquid crystal is transparent (col. 10, lines 1-10).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed December 19, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argued that the combination of Gutfeld and Paton fails to teach "a resonating plate located between the resonator and the projecting portion for transmitting the vibration to the projecting portion" since, when applying Paton's impervious membrane to modify Gutfeld, Paton's impervious membrane will be inside Gutfeld's apparatus 20 (i.e., inside the nozzle fixture 21) in order to be in contact with the liquid crystal material and Paton's piezoelectric crystal will be outside Gutfeld's nozzle fixture 21.

The Examiner disagrees with Applicant's remarks since, as shown in Fig. II, Paton discloses an ink-jet system comprising a resonating plate located between the resonator 5 and the housing 1 (projecting portion) comprising chamber 2 and nozzle 4 for transmitting the vibration to the chamber so as to emit the liquid material into a stream of uniform sized drops being substantially free from satellite drops (col. 7, lines 49-53 and col. 10, lines 12-19). This housing 1 comprising the chamber 2 and the nozzle 4 is similar to the nozzle fixture 21 in Fig. 2A of Gutfeld. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would have a motivation to modify the apparatus for forming a liquid crystal layer on a substrate of Gutfeld by employing a resonating plate and a resonator in the nozzle fixture of Gutfeld such that the resonating plate located between the resonator and the housing (projecting portion) for transmitting the vibration from the resonator to the nozzle fixture through the resonating plate as taught by Paton in order

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to emit the liquid crystal material into a stream of uniform sized drops being substantially free from satellite drops (col. 7, lines 49-53 and col. 10, lines 12-19). Since the modification is feasible and beneficial, one of ordinary skill in the art would make the apparatus of Gutfeld work by having the resonating plate in contact with the resonator for transferring the vibration to the liquid as taught by Paton.

The Applicant also argued that the combination of Gutfeld and Paton fails to teach "applying an on voltage to a resonator during emitting of the liquid crystal material to generate a vibration so as to apply a pressure to the projecting portion to emit the liquid crystal material from the projecting portion" as recited in claim 1 and "a resonator for generating a vibration upon application of an on voltage to the resonator during emitting of the liquid crystal material" as recited in claim 9.

The Examiner again disagrees with Applicant's remarks since Paton clearly discloses that a high frequency alternating signal and a second high frequency alternating signal (i.e., an on voltage) are applied to the piezoelectric crystal or vibrator (or resonator) during emitting of the liquid material to generate a vibration in order to obtain the streams of drops being free, or substantially free, from satellite drops (col. 10, lines 12-30).

Thus, a prima facie of obviousness has been established since the combination of the teachings of the prior art produces the claimed invention. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

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Conclusion


6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thoi V. Duong whose telephone number is (571) 272-2292. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms, can be reached at (571) 272-1787.

Thoi V. Duong



03/03/2007